

MAHATHIR-ARMY

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KUALA LUMPUR, S E P T . 1 3 (BERNAMA) PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY A CERTAIN GROUP OF PEOPLE IS DISCOURAGING SOLDIERS FROM GOING INTO THE JUNGLE PURPORTEDLY FOR FEAR THAT THEY WILL MISS THEIR PRAYERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS 'A TREACHEROUS ACT ON THE PART OF THE GROUP AGAINST THE NATION.

IF THE SOLDIERS WERE TO FOLLOW THEIR DIRECTIVE, THEN THE NATION WOULD FALL TO THE COMMUNISTS, HE ADDED WHEN CLOSING A TWO-DAY SEMINAR FOR SENIOR ARMED FORCES RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AT THE DEFENCE MINISTRY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE FORMATION OF A RELIGIOUS CORPS IN THE ARMED FORCES SO THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ORGANISED BODY TO LOOK INTO RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

HE ALSO URGED THE RELIGIOUS TEACHERS TO FEEL THEMSELVES AS PART OF THE ARMED FORCES.--MORE

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED ARMED FORCES RELIGIOUS TEACHERS TO IMPART RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS THAT WOULD FOSTER A SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE FOR THE NATION--

FREEDOM OF WORSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY SHOULD BE DEFENDED AND TOWARD!; THIS END THEY SHOULD INSTIL IN THE SOLDIERS THE SPIRIT TO FIGHT UNTIL THEIR LAST DROP OF BLOOD FOR THEIR RELIGION, RACE AND NATION.

'IF THE NATION FALLS TO THE COMMUNISTS, THERE WILL SE NO FREEDOM OF WORSHIP,+ HE SAID.

IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ONLY A NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WERE STILL PRACTISING ISLAM WHILE THE YOUNG HAD BEEN INFLUENCED TO THINK THAT ISLAM HAMPERED DEVELOPMENT.

IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY SUCH AS MALAYSIA ANYONE HAD THE RIGHT TO SYMPATHISE WITH ANY PARTY AND VOTE FOR IT DURING ELECTIONS BUT SUCH SYMPATHY SHOULD NOT BE TO THE EXTENT OF BETRAYING THE NATION.--BERNAM

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